

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00881 100923Z

45

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

----- 090777

R 100847Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8296

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KS, OREP (RYAN )

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS COVERS CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S HUMAN  
RIGHTS/U.S. ASSISTANCE REPORT

REF: STATE 7376

1. SUMMARY: PRESS GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO  
CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S.  
ASSISTANCE IN VIETNAM AND KOREA (REF.). MOST PAPERS  
EMPHASIZED RYAN CONTENTION THAT "SERIOUS ABRIDGEMENT  
OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS" CONTINUES IN SOUTH KOREA. COVERAGE"  
OF REST OF REPORT VARIED FROM PAPER TO PAPER. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH TONGA ILBO AND CHOSUN ILBO GAVE EQUALLY PROMINENT  
COVERAGE TO CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S HFAC REPORT WHICH HANKUK  
ILBO ALSO FEATURED. ALL THREE NEWSPAPERS NOTED THAT  
"REPRESSION" REMAINED POWERFUL ISSUE IN KOREAN POLITICS.  
OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN, HOWEVER REPORTED THAT RYAN HAD  
SAID REPORTS OF REPRESSION IN SOUTH KOREA WERE EXAGGERATED.

3. ONLY TONGA REPORTED RYAN'S COMMENTS THAT:

A. ROKG HAD PRESSURED TONGA'S ADVERTISERS TO WITHDRAW  
ADVERTISING COPY FROM NEWSPAPER (WHICH HAS SUBSEQUENTLY  
BACKFIRED TO SOME EXTENT) AND

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B. IN ABSENCE OF ACTIVE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT (AND DESPITE

LABOR LAWS), PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAD GAINED BENEFITS FROM KOREAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT EXPENSE OF KOREAN LABOR FORCE.

4. TONGA ILBO ON THE OTHER HAND DID NOT REPORT PORTIONS OF STUDY WHICH NOTED THAT OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN KOREA WOULD STOP ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IN FACE OF INVASION THREAT FROM NORTH. TONGA ALSO DID NOT REPORT STATEMENT THAT OPPOSITION WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF SUSPENSION OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO KOREA EVEN AS LEVERAGE AGAINST PRESIDENT PARK AND HIS "REPRESSIVE" HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

5. HANKUK ILBO NOTED RYAN HAD NOT SEEN BISHOP CHI AS HE HAD DESIRED AND THAT PRESENCE OF US/ROK FORCES IN KOREA MADE "POSSIBILITY OF INVASION BY NORTH NEAR ZERO".

RIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, OREP, KS, (RYAN, LEO J)  
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